COASTAL FIRST NATIONS
GREAT BEAR INITIATIVE

ANNUAL REPORT 2025-26

Protecting our Coast. Building our Economy.







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WHO WE ARE



The **Coastal First Nations-Great Bear Initiative** is an alliance of First Nations along the North and Central Coasts and Haida Gwaii. They include the Council of the Haida Nation, Skidegate, Old Massett, Metlakatla, Gitxaała, Heiltsuk, Nuxalk, Gitga'at, Kitasoo Xai'xais and Wuikinuxv First Nations.

Our communities, traditions, cultures and governance structures are as unique and diverse as the abundant species that share these lands and waters with us. We all share a responsibility to care for this region. Known throughout the world as the Great Bear Rainforest, it has been our home for at least 14,000 years.

Collectively, we are committed to work together to build a **conservation-based economy** in our territories.

VISION

Protected and restored ecosystems in our lands and waters, managed sustainably by member First Nations, enabling traditional and modern economies, improving the quality of life of the people in our communities, giving rise to healthy First Nations.

MISSION

We support the wellbeing of our communities by working collectively to protect our environment and to build a sustainable economy in our territories.

GOVERNANCE

The Great Bear Initiative Society is a non-profit society under the Societies Act of BC and operates under the direction of a Board of Directors, with one representative from each of the member First Nations and First Nation organizations. The Board approves an annual operational plan and budget for the organization. Our members include Wuikinuxv, Heiltsuk, Kitasoo Xai'xais, Nuxalk, Gitga'at, Gitxaała, Metlakatla, Old Massett, Skidegate and Council of the Haida Nation.

The Board of Directors meets quarterly to review progress and provide mandates and direction on activities. An Executive Committee (our Society's officers - President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary) also meets regularly to review administrative issues and monitor project work. On an ongoing basis, the Stewardship Directors Committee makes recommendations to the Board of Directors on policies and project implementation, among other matters.

CFN has offices in North Vancouver and Vancouver, where a team of core staff support the Board of Directors with the following:

- strategic project planning;
- program administration;
- communications and outreach;
- assistance in developing economic strategies;
- community capacity-building; and
- financial management.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gaagwiis Jason Alsop
President, Council of the Haida Nation

Bruce Reece
Chief Councillor, Gitga'at Nation *(term ended March 2026)*

Arnold Clifton Sr.
Chief Councillor, Gitga'at Nation *(term commenced April 2026)*

Elliott Moody
Councillor, Gitxaała Nation

K'áwáził Marilyn Slett
Chief Councillor, Heiltsuk Tribal Council

Chris McKnight
Chief Councillor, Kitasoo Band Council

Robert Nelson
Chief Councillor, Metlakatla Governing Council

Tlhmtimut Samuel Schooner
Chief Councillor, Nuxalk Nation

Donald (Duffy) Edgars
Chief Councillor, Old Massett Village Council

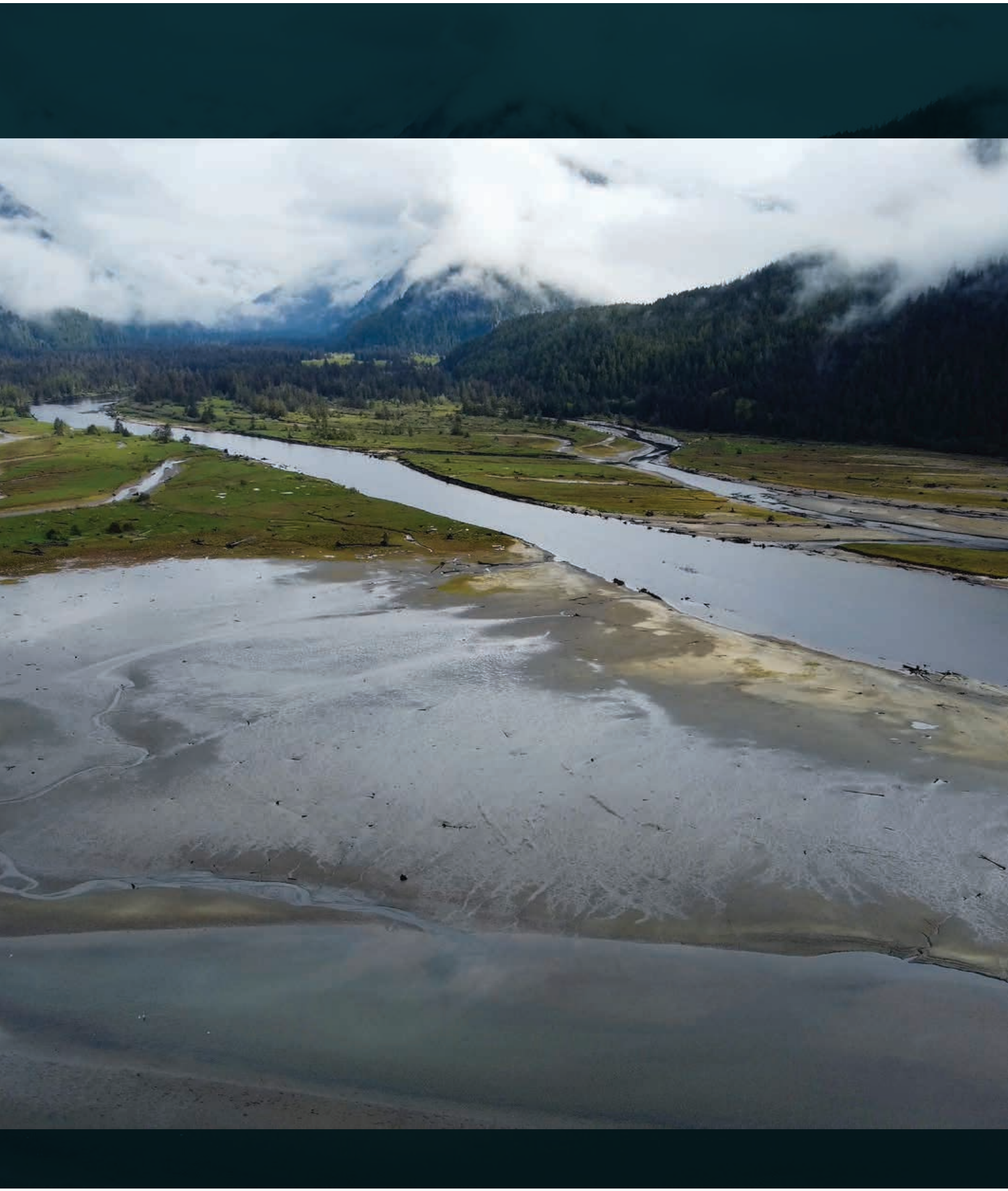
Billy Yovanovich
Chief Councillor, Skidegate Band Council

Danielle Shaw
Chief Councillor, Wuikinuxv Nation *(term ended April 2026)*

Zachariah Hanuse
Councillor, Wuikinuxv Nation *(term commenced May 2026)*











CEO'S MESSAGE

CHRISTINE SMITH-MARTIN

Protecting Our Coast. Building Our Economy.

As we look back on our 25th year, we are taking the opportunity to reflect on the founding principles that have guided our organization throughout the past quarter century.

Our Nations have been here for millennia, grounded in values that have endured across generations. As the world continues to accelerate and grow increasingly complex, we have remained steadfast in our commitment to protecting our way of life and the lands and waters that sustain our communities.

This past year was particularly challenging, marked by significant pressures on multiple fronts. Once again, our treasured North Coast faced the prospect of decisions that could fundamentally alter its future. The Canada-Alberta MOU raised the possibility of lifting the tanker ban, threatening decades of work and advocacy to protect the coast, while the prospect of an oil pipeline to the North Coast once again became a matter of national discussion.

In the face of these challenges, our communities and leadership remained resolute. By working together and engaging in careful, constructive dialogue, we secured not only renewed federal and provincial commitments to the tanker ban, but an additional federal investment through the Reconciliation Framework Agreement for Bioregional Ocean Management and Protection. This investment represents an important commitment to advancing ocean protection and reconciliation with Nations across the Central and North Coast and Haida Gwaii.

We have always understood that protecting our coast is fundamental to the long-term prosperity of our Nations and communities. As we continue to advance our shared goals, we remain steadfast in our commitment to the core values that have guided us for generations—values that will continue to sustain our communities, strengthen our economies, and ensure our Nations thrive for generations to come.



Christine Smith-Martin
CEO, Coastal First Nations-Great Bear Initiative



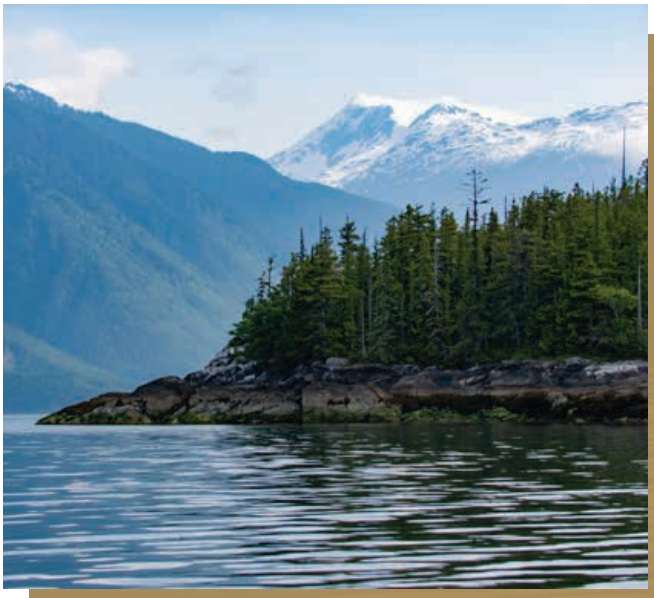


IMPACTS & HIGHLIGHTS

BUILDING A CONSERVATION ECONOMY

Since CFN was founded in 2000, we have championed Indigenous-led approaches that recognize healthy, functioning ecosystems as the foundation of resilient, diversified economies. By protecting the intergenerational wealth of our coast, CFN has helped demonstrate that ecological stewardship and economic prosperity can—and must—go hand in hand.

CFN is advancing a proven alternative to harmful business-as-usual industrial development that placed ecosystems, communities and long-term prosperity at risk. In 2025-26, we continued working with leaders from across the North Pacific Coast, along with other governments and partners, to build a true conservation economy for our rich coast.



Great Bear Rainforest Agreement

One of the most significant conservation achievements in Canadian history, the Great Bear Rainforest Agreement protects more than six million hectares of rainforest through a model of Indigenous-led, ecosystem-based management. The historic agreement pioneered Project Finance for Permanence (PFP), a funding mechanism that provides long-term, sustainable financing to protect the natural ecosystems that underpin resilient, diversified economies. This trailblazing approach is now being replicated worldwide.

Great Bear Forest Carbon Project

Launched as the world's largest Indigenous-led carbon offset project through CFN, the Great Bear Forest Carbon Project eventually led to the establishment of Great Bear Carbon—a 100% Indigenous-owned entity that markets and sells carbon offsets, generating long-term revenue for coastal communities while safeguarding traditional territories. This pioneering project is now recognized globally as a leading model for Indigenous-led climate finance.



Reconciliation Framework Agreement for Bioregional Ocean Management and Protection

Since 2018, this landmark Nation-to-Nation agreement, also called the Oceans RFA, has enabled First Nations along the North Pacific Coast to work in partnership with the governments of Canada and British Columbia to protect ocean ecosystems, strengthen marine safety and enhance local emergency preparedness throughout the Great Bear Sea.

The agreement establishes a model for shared authority and collaborative governance across the Northern Shelf Bioregion, an ecologically vital marine area encompassing approximately two-thirds of British Columbia's coast.





Fisheries Resources Reconciliation Agreement

The landmark Fisheries Resources Reconciliation Agreement establishes co-governance of fisheries resources between CFN member Nations and Canada—a groundbreaking framework for joint decision-making that restores equitable access to marine resources and community-based fisheries. By advancing Indigenous leadership in fisheries governance, the agreement lays the foundation for sustainable livelihoods and an equitable, resilient ocean economy.

Great Bear Sea PFP

An innovative model for marine stewardship and sustainable economic development, the Great Bear Sea PFP initiative provides long-term funding to Indigenous Nations to protect and sustainably manage more than 30,000 square kilometres of ocean territory. The initiative features a Marine Protected Area Network and Indigenous-led ecosystem-based management that will preserve the health of coastal waters, cultures and economies for generations to come.



GREAT BEAR FIRST NATIONS FOUNDATION

For more than 25 years, CFN member Nations have worked together to protect the lands and waters of the Great Bear Rainforest and Sea, and to uphold governance, stewardship and sustainable livelihoods in our communities.

From the Great Bear Rainforest Agreements and Coastal Guardian programs to wild salmon restoration, Indigenous marine planning and clean energy transitions—our member Nations have shown what's possible when we lead the work, and when long-term vision is matched with long-term commitment.

The **Great Bear First Nations Foundation (GBFNF)** was established to carry this legacy forward, and to grow new resources for the next generation.

With a Board that includes representation from CFN member Nations, the Foundation is building on decades of Indigenous-led work across this region, mobilizing shared resources, deep partnerships and long-term investments to advance the key priorities of CFN member Nations: education, stewardship, climate action and cultural revitalization.

GBFNF's mandate is rooted in community and driven by our member Nations' inherent responsibility to govern and steward the Great Bear Rainforest and Sea for future generations—an enduring relationship built on knowledge, care and accountability.

We invest in programs that:

- Strengthen education, capacity building, and youth leadership
- Advance Indigenous-led climate action and energy sovereignty
- Restore ecosystems and protect biodiversity
- Support intergenerational knowledge transfer and cultural revitalization

Stay Connected

Visit our website at greatbearfirstnationsfoundation.ca and sign up to receive updates, stories and ways to support Indigenous-led stewardship.

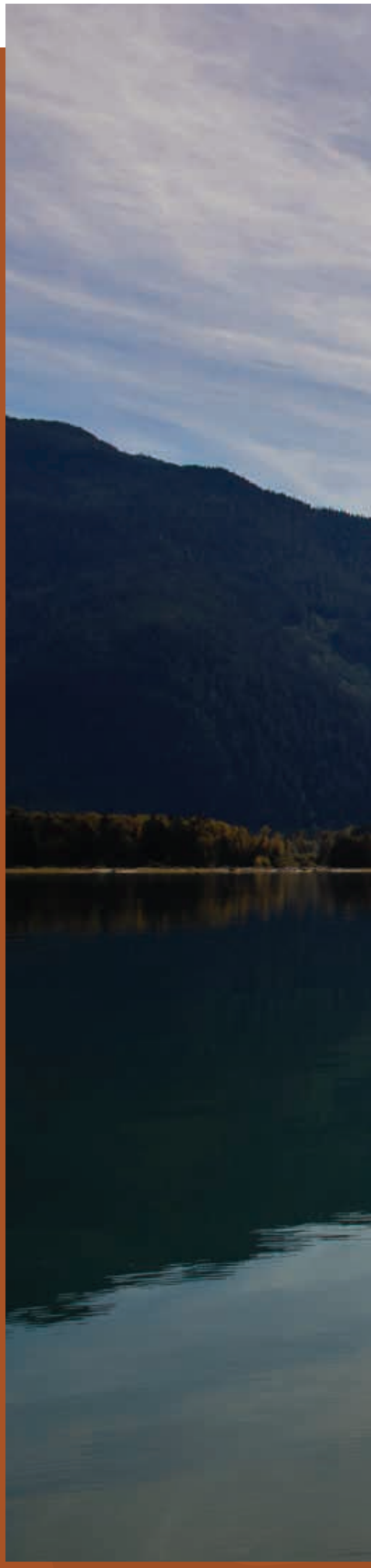
Stand With Us

Share your support and stand with CFN member Nations in caring for the lands, waters and communities of the Great Bear region.

Learn More

Contact Penelope Naldrett,
Development Manager,
Great Bear First Nations Foundation
Phone: 604.803.4400
Email: pnaldrett@gbfnf.ca

GREAT BEAR FIRST NATIONS FOUNDATION











LEONA HUMCHITT YOUTH IN CLIMATE ACTION FUND

The Leona Humchitt Youth in Climate Action Fund honours the life and legacy of Leona Humchitt, a proud Haíłzaqv (Heiltsuk) leader, mentor and Climate Action Coordinator with the Indigenous Climate Action Network.

Leona's work was grounded in care for her community, the lands and waters, and future generations. She advanced Indigenous-led climate solutions, supported her Nation in reducing reliance on fossil fuels, and helped lead the development of the Haíłzaqv Climate Action Plan. Leona was especially committed to uplifting youth and creating pathways for the next generation of leaders. She always had the health and prosperity of her community on her heart as she travelled the world to advocate for these initiatives.

Today, Leona's legacy continues through a growing fund dedicated to supporting Indigenous youth across British Columbia to take action on climate change in their own communities through an annual award.

Support Indigenous Youth in Climate Action









PROTECTING OUR COAST

OUR LAND

The Lands Program is a team of lands and forestry managers from member Nations and CFN policy advisors who work together to support the negotiation and implementation of land and natural resource agreements between the CFN member Nations and BC.

The Lands team is focused on continued implementation of strategic land and resource agreements with BC, including the Great Bear Rainforest (GBR) agreements and related land-use planning, forestry, wildlife stewardship and carbon credit initiatives. The team supports and coordinates CFN member Nation participation in various government-to-government policy and technical forums, and collaborative land and resource decision making with key BC ministries.

IMPACTS

- Advanced key Regional Accord initiatives, including wildlife stewardship, collaborative and joint decision making and forestry land access management.
- Worked with the Nations' stewardship offices to complete "Landscape Reserve Designs" for their territories, ensuring enhanced protection of cultural heritage resources, forest land biodiversity and habitat for endangered and regionally wildlife species.
- Enhanced collaboration with the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, improving wildlife stewardship through a new regional table.
- Lands and forestry managers from CFN member Nations collaborated to develop a "GBR" forestry recovery strategy.
- Land managers from CFN member Nations engaged with provincial ministries to ensure new BC government initiatives addressed the Nations' interests for cultural heritage resource protection, forest carbon credit production, wildlife stewardship and collaborative decision making.



Upcoming Priorities

- Continue negotiations with British Columbia on a forestry strategy that delivers enhanced economic benefits for CFN member Nations and ensures Ecosystem-Based Management implementation accommodates Nation interests.
- Implement a new Collaborative Decision Making framework that ensures efficient and effective decision-making processes.
- Continue to nurture an effective working relationship between CFN member Nations and senior staff from the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship.
- Negotiate a renewed agreement with BC to advance a DRIPA joint decision-making agreement.









STORY

Guardians Meet for Annual Gathering in Wuikinuxv and Heiltsuk Territories

Jointly hosted by the Wuikinuxv and Heiltsuk Nations, and CFN's Coastal Stewardship Network, the Guardian Gathering featured three full days of activities. For the first time in six years, the event was held at the Hakai Institute on Calvert Island—a stunning coastal location on the Central Coast with state-of-the-art scientific facilities.

Since 2008, CSN has facilitated these gatherings, which feature a unique mix of cultural activities and practical field training. Beyond bringing Guardians together to make new connections and renew old ones, the gatherings also invite community Elders to share their knowledge. "These annual gatherings are very important to the Guardians," says Nicole Robinson, CSN's Coastal Guardian Coordinator and a previous Gitga'at Guardian. "It's a great reminder that they're all part of a much bigger family and working toward the same goals."

On the first day, attendees were treated to a welcome from the Wuikinuxv and Heiltsuk Nations, including historical and cultural background about the area, as well as a guided hike to learn about Hellebore—a hardy plant that's highly regarded by coastal Nations for its powerful medicinal qualities. The next day, participants travelled to Kitit Village, at the head of Rivers Inlet in Wuikinuxv Territory. The visit included with a stop at the beautiful House of Nuùw̓aqawa (Wuikinuxv Big House) and a welcome featuring songs and dancing by Elders and youth.

The final day consisted of Guardian presentations and a final closing circle around the fire, which gave Guardians the chance to express their thoughts and reflections—why it's important to get together and stay grounded and connected—and shared ideas for making the next gathering just as memorable.

CSN is grateful to the National Guardian Network, Environment Climate Change Canada, and the Tula Foundation for their generous support of this gathering.

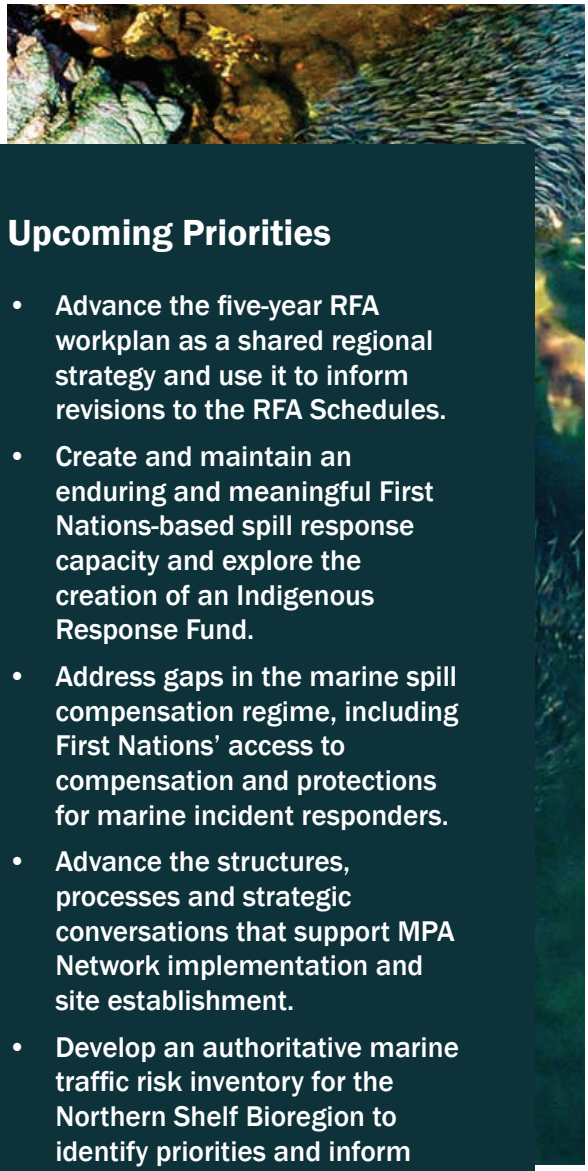
OUR SEA

Covering more than 100,000 square kilometres, the Great Bear Sea is among the most biologically diverse cold-water environments on Earth. For millennia, First Nations have carefully managed these marine ecosystems, and have brought that same vision, experience and traditional knowledge to modern marine use planning.

The CFN Marine team supports the efforts of coastal First Nations in leading the implementation of marine plans and related initiatives within their coastal territories, including participation on various committees and teams, and providing leadership, coordination and policy support. This includes Nation-level and regional monitoring and coast-wide planning and management initiatives with other governments and partners, such as the Marine Planning Partnership (MaPP), implementation of the Reconciliation Framework on Bioregional Oceans Management and Protection (RFA) and advancing the Great Bear Sea Marine Protected Areas Network.

IMPACTS

- Secured new investment for the Reconciliation Framework Agreement to strengthen Indigenous partnerships and conservation efforts on the Pacific Coast.
- Strengthened marine emergency preparedness and response capacity across the North and Central Coast, including securing federal support for Emergency Tow Vessels.
- Advanced Indigenous-centred decision-making in marine emergency response through two multi-partner workshops.
- Launched a two-year collaborative marine traffic risk assessment for the North and Central Coast with Transport Canada.
- Advanced a First Nations-led approach to marine conservation planning through an agreement with the BC Government on a “made in BC” model for the Central Coast National Marine Conservation Area Reserve.



Upcoming Priorities

- Advance the five-year RFA workplan as a shared regional strategy and use it to inform revisions to the RFA Schedules.
- Create and maintain an enduring and meaningful First Nations-based spill response capacity and explore the creation of an Indigenous Response Fund.
- Address gaps in the marine spill compensation regime, including First Nations’ access to compensation and protections for marine incident responders.
- Advance the structures, processes and strategic conversations that support MPA Network implementation and site establishment.
- Develop an authoritative marine traffic risk inventory for the Northern Shelf Bioregion to identify priorities and inform shared approaches to risk management.









STORY

CFN upholds Oil Tanker Moratorium Act to protect the North Pacific Coast

On November 5, 2025, BC Premier David Eby; Chief Marilyn Slett, President, Coastal First Nations; Mayor Garry Reece, Lax Kw'alaams; Jason Alsop, President, Haida Nation; Paula Amos, Indigenous Tourism B.C.; and Clarence Innis, Hereditary Elder, all signed the North Coast Protection Declaration.

The collaborative event was a clear and unanimous statement of resolve to maintain the North Coast tanker ban, and a strong commitment to sustainable progress for coastal communities. It was also an unequivocal call for the Federal Government to uphold the law, and its prior commitments to protecting the coast from tanker traffic.

CFN leadership meets with Prime Minister Mark Carney in Prince Rupert

On January 13, 2026, CFN leadership met with Prime Minister Mark Carney, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Tim Hodgson, and Minister of Housing and Infrastructure Gregor Robertson in Prince Rupert.



Hosted at the Crest Hotel, owned and operated by the Gitxaala Nation, the meeting was an opportunity for CFN leadership to reiterate their steadfast opposition to oil pipelines and tankers in their waters and to present their vision for a healthy, productive and sustainable North Coast.

On July 2, 2026, both the provincial and federal governments reaffirmed their commitment to the tanker ban as part of the Canada-BC Cooperative Prosperity Agreement. This renewed pledge reflects the impact of CFN's strategic political advocacy and targeted communications efforts.

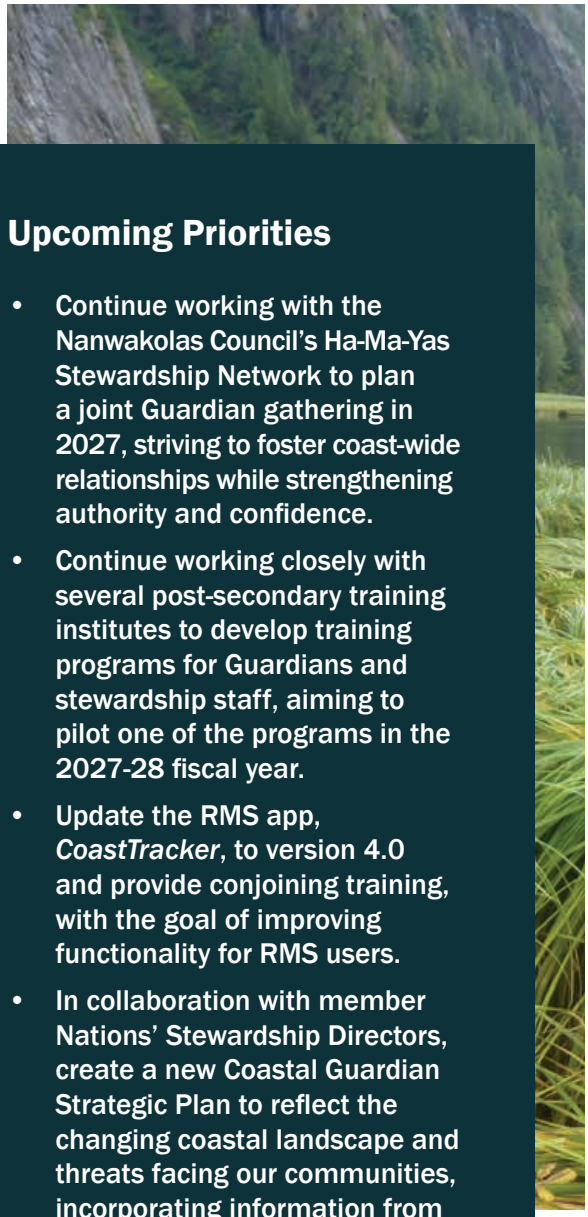
COASTAL STEWARDSHIP NETWORK

The Coastal Stewardship Network (CSN) provides programming and support to Guardian programs and stewardship offices of First Nations along the North and Central Coast and Haida Gwaii.

CSN provides opportunities for networking and collaboration; training and professional development; coordinating the Regional Monitoring System (RMS), a set of digital data collection tools used by our Nations to monitor coastal regions; and raising awareness of the stewardship work undertaken by CFN member Nations through our communications channels.

IMPACTS

- The first-ever *CSN Evaluation*—a comprehensive, third-party assessment of the CSN program—demonstrated strong performance in supporting member Nations as they protect and steward their territories.
- The CSN-facilitated Annual Guardian Gathering strengthened knowledge sharing and collaboration across member Nations, enabling Guardians to return home feeling reinvigorated and better connected to neighbouring Nations.
- CSN's Annual RMS workshop provided intensive training for Guardians and other RMS users, increasing understanding of the tool's capabilities across member Nations—enhancing data-collection and ensuring better information for stewardship decision-making, funding proposals, and more.
- CSN created a new safety framework for in-community events, aimed at keeping people safe and secure in group settings. Thanks to its clarity and transferability, the framework is being adapted for use by other CFN teams.



Upcoming Priorities

- Continue working with the Nanwakolas Council's Ha-Ma-Yas Stewardship Network to plan a joint Guardian gathering in 2027, striving to foster coast-wide relationships while strengthening authority and confidence.
- Continue working closely with several post-secondary training institutes to develop training programs for Guardians and stewardship staff, aiming to pilot one of the programs in the 2027-28 fiscal year.
- Update the RMS app, *CoastTracker*, to version 4.0 and provide conjoining training, with the goal of improving functionality for RMS users.
- In collaboration with member Nations' Stewardship Directors, create a new Coastal Guardian Strategic Plan to reflect the changing coastal landscape and threats facing our communities, incorporating information from the *CSN Evaluation*.







STORY

Coastal Stewards Chart the Future of the Regional Monitoring System







CFN's Regional Monitoring System is a successful model for Indigenous-led monitoring, encouraging collaboration between Nations and providing sound data for effective decision-making.

In December 2025, the Coastal Stewardship Network brought together Guardians and other stewardship staff from CFN member Nations for two days of collaboration focused on the Regional Monitoring System (RMS). Eight stewards joined in person in Vancouver, with another dozen participating via video conference from their respective Nations.

Led by Coastal Stewardship Network's RMS team, the workshop was part of the ongoing evolution of the digital monitoring platform, which has supported Indigenous-led stewardship for over 15 years.

The meeting included practical elements, such as user training and hands-on support for data management, as well as deeper conversations about how the RMS could be further enhanced. Guardians and stewardship staff shared feedback on their day-to-day experiences with the current system, highlighting what works well and where improvements are needed.

As Guardian programs and the Nations' Stewardship Offices continue to expand and assume increasingly sophisticated stewardship responsibilities, meetings like this ensure that technological tools evolve in lockstep with community needs—always under community direction and control.

The work continues, with CSN team members incorporating feedback from these sessions into future updates to the RMS and related training and support programs. Beyond technical improvements, the gathering reinforced something more fundamental: the RMS remains what it has always been—a tool built by Nations, for Nations, to support their inherent responsibilities to care for their territories.





BUILDING OUR ECONOMY

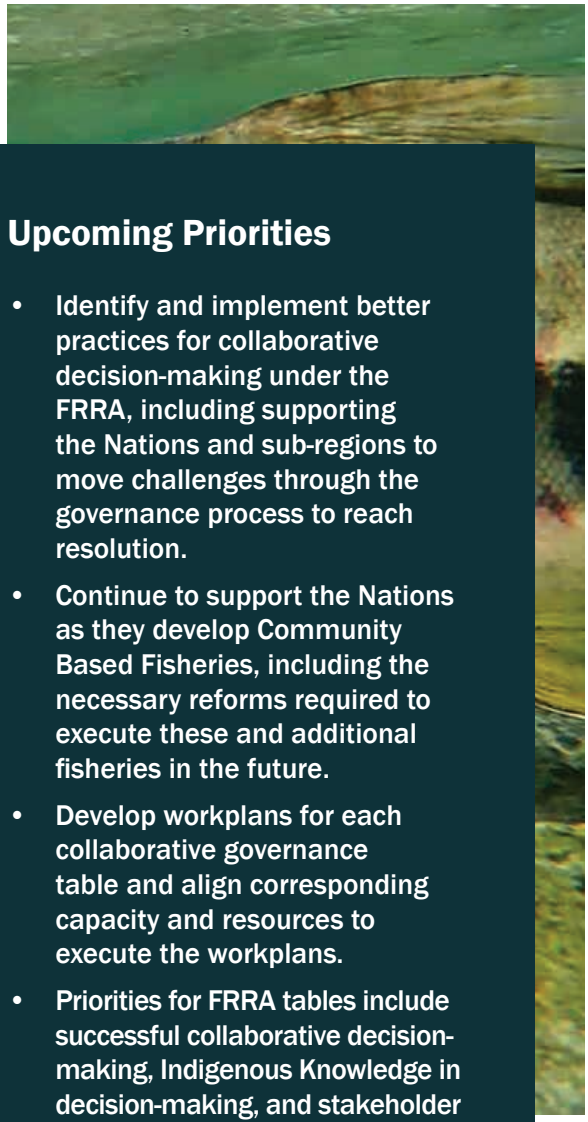
FISHERIES RECONCILIATION

Through the Fisheries Resources Reconciliation Agreement (FRRA), finalized in 2021, CFN member Nations began a collaborative process with Canada to ensure equitable governance of fisheries resources, including creation of the Coastal Nations Fisheries Limited Partnership to support growing access to all commercial fisheries in the region, and Community Based Fisheries to enable greater community participation in small-scale commercial fisheries.

To advance the collaborative governance dimension of the agreement, CFN's Fisheries team is building innovative mechanisms to support the Nations in implementing the FRRA, providing ongoing support for the Bio-Regional Management Council, Joint Executive Committee, and various sub-committees working together to implement the agreement.

IMPACTS

- Advanced collaborative governance processes under the FRRA, bringing in best practices developed at the Senior Working Group.
- Implemented a Steering Committee under the FRRA governance structure that provides a foundation for reaching solutions to FRRA challenges.
- Established the Indigenous knowledge systems and Western science subcommittee of the Bioregional Management Council, which hosted two workshops and several meetings.
- Supported progress on rebuilding Community Based Fisheries (CBFs) in CFN member Nations, including designated landing sites, refinements to both electronic and dockside monitoring programs, and establishing new processes for collaboratively working through complex reforms.
- Helped launch the Groundfish CBF for both the Kitasoo Xai'xais and Haida Nations on a compressed timeline, which required creative solutions given the existing governance pathways and a complicated fishery.
- Created opportunities for member Nations' input on FRRA-related policy processes and initiatives, including discussions on licensing policy reform, Pacific Salmon Treaty renegotiation, Indigenous data sovereignty and Indigenous knowledge Systems.



Upcoming Priorities

- Identify and implement better practices for collaborative decision-making under the FRRA, including supporting the Nations and sub-regions to move challenges through the governance process to reach resolution.
- Continue to support the Nations as they develop Community Based Fisheries, including the necessary reforms required to execute these and additional fisheries in the future.
- Develop workplans for each collaborative governance table and align corresponding capacity and resources to execute the workplans.
- Priorities for FRRA tables include successful collaborative decision-making, Indigenous Knowledge in decision-making, and stakeholder engagement processes.









STORY

First Nations on the North Pacific Coast Generate $1.77 Billion in Economic Output for BC

A recent report from Coast Funds shows the massive economic output generated through almost two decades of investments in a conservation economy for the North and Central Coast and Haida Gwaii.

The report, *Building a Conservation Economy*, is the result of an independent analysis covering a 17-year period since the Great Bear Rainforest Agreements were announced. The results show how investments in Indigenous-led economic development can deliver long-term benefits for local communities, while creating cascading benefits for the rest of British Columbia.

Supported by the initial $60-million Economic Development Fund, these investments “contributed $808 million to provincial GDP and netted $1.77 billion in gross economic output,” including new businesses, infrastructure and projects contributing $331 million to household incomes and supporting an average of 373 full-time jobs a year.

“Economically, we are setting the table for the next generation,” said Samuel Schooner, Chief Councillor of the Nuxalk Nation. “With the help of Coast Funds, we can be as creative as we want to be. We haven’t seen the full potential yet and the best work is yet to come.”



CLIMATE ACTION

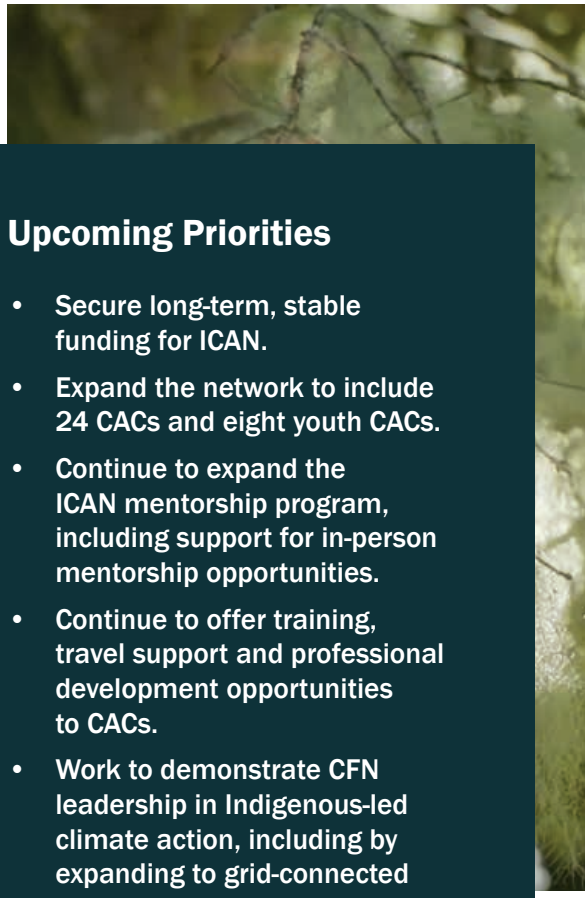
CFN supports Indigenous-led climate action by building community capacity and advancing the Regional Accord, primarily through the Indigenous Climate Action Network (ICAN), which helps member Nations lead clean energy and climate projects.

ICAN is a peer-based network that fosters collaboration, learning and leadership. Each member Nation has a Climate Action Coordinator (CAC) who guides strategic planning and implementation of local energy goals. The network provides monthly meetings and topic-specific working groups, an all-Indigenous mentorship program, annual gatherings and conference participation, and customized training for CACs.

CFN is a recognized leader in Indigenous-led community-driven climate solutions and continues to develop tools to support First Nations across BC to advance their energy and climate goals.

IMPACTS

- Advanced the ICAN mentorship program by hosting in-person visits, recruiting seven new mentors, and facilitating regular check-ins—enhancing knowledge and resource sharing between mentors and mentees.
- Introduced two youth CAC positions from Nuxalk and Uchucklesaht, increasing CAC capacity and youth participation in the climate sector.
- In collaboration with BCIT, advanced ICAN's heat pump maintenance training program in six CFN communities, equipping 15 community members with the technical skills to support self-sufficiency and energy sovereignty.
- Hosted the annual ICAN Gathering, with participation from 11 CACs and Elders in Residence, strengthening relationships and facilitating learning exchanges on territorial and cultural knowledge, alongside community climate action projects.
- Nations' interests for cultural heritage resource protection, forest carbon credit production, wildlife stewardship and collaborative decision making.



Upcoming Priorities

- Secure long-term, stable funding for ICAN.
- Expand the network to include 24 CACs and eight youth CACs.
- Continue to expand the ICAN mentorship program, including support for in-person mentorship opportunities.
- Continue to offer training, travel support and professional development opportunities to CACs.
- Work to demonstrate CFN leadership in Indigenous-led climate action, including by expanding to grid-connected communities.









STORY

Skidegate Hosts Pilot Program for Heat Pump Training Program

In September, participants from six communities (Skidegate, Old Massett, Heiltsuk, Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis, Metlakatla and Kitasoo Xai'xais) took part in a three-day pilot training program for Heat Pump Operations and Maintenance, held at the Skidegate Community Hall on Haida Gwaii.

The training was delivered through a collaboration between CFN's Indigenous Climate Action Network, the British Columbia Institute of Technology and Coastal Heat Pumps, with on-the-ground support from Garrett Russ, Climate Action Coordinator for the Skidegate Band Council.

Over three days, participants learned the fundamentals of residential heat pump theory and operation, essential preventative maintenance, and troubleshooting common issues. They also had a chance to look at ongoing maintenance for existing heat pump installations in community buildings.

The ICAN team would like to extend their sincere gratitude to Garrett and the entire community of Skidegate for welcoming us and hosting this first-of-its-kind training in their territory.



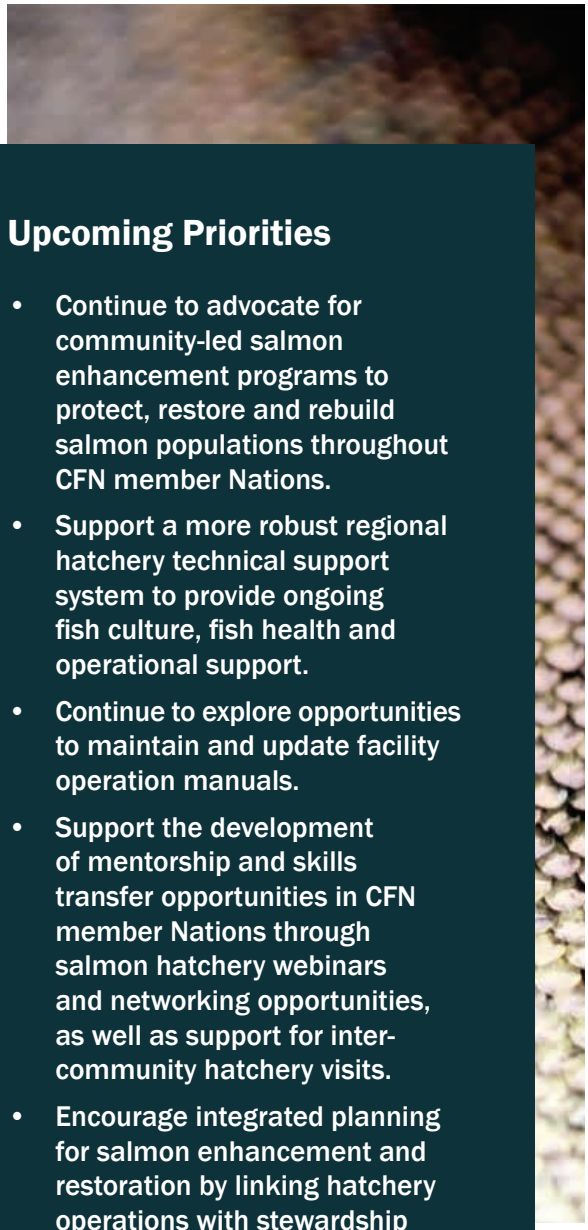
WILD SALMON

The lifeblood of coastal First Nations' economies and culture for thousands of years, salmon help shape the food web of the entire North Pacific Coast—from the open ocean to freshwater rivers that reach far inland. CFN member Nations put the highest priority on stewarding and rebuilding wild salmon populations in coastal territories.

Through its Wild Samon program, CFN advances salmon enhancement and restoration efforts across the North and Central Coast and Haida Gwaii, including providing technical support and learning opportunities for community hatchery programs in CFN member Nations.

IMPACTS

- Delivered technical support and operational troubleshooting to advance effective management of salmon hatcheries in six participating First Nations: Haida (Old Massett), Gitga'at, Heiltsuk, Kitasoo Xai'xais, Nuxalk and Wuikinuxv.
- Developed customized hatchery operation manuals, instructional videos and updated infrastructure assessments for each hatchery.
- Provided regional fish health training and skill development.
- Increased collaboration among CFN member Nations and DFO's Salmonid Enhancement Program (SEP).
- Established a foundation for long-term salmon enhancement and restoration efforts.



Upcoming Priorities

- Continue to advocate for community-led salmon enhancement programs to protect, restore and rebuild salmon populations throughout CFN member Nations.
- Support a more robust regional hatchery technical support system to provide ongoing fish culture, fish health and operational support.
- Continue to explore opportunities to maintain and update facility operation manuals.
- Support the development of mentorship and skills transfer opportunities in CFN member Nations through salmon hatchery webinars and networking opportunities, as well as support for inter-community hatchery visits.
- Encourage integrated planning for salmon enhancement and restoration by linking hatchery operations with stewardship planning, fisheries management and climate adaptation strategies.





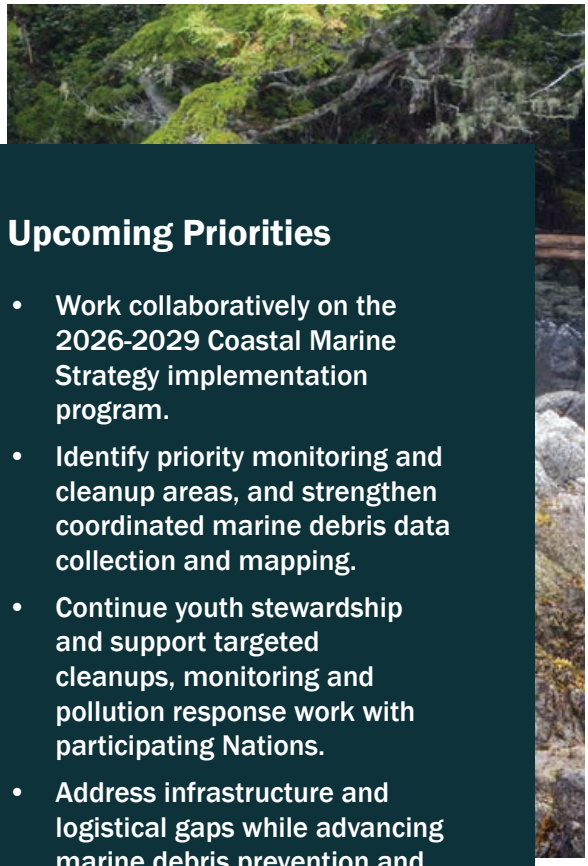
SHORELINE CLEANUP AND COASTAL MARINE STRATEGY

CFN aims to keep coastal habitats clean by coordinating large-scale marine debris cleanups along the shores of CFN member territories, ensuring safe and effective removal and responsible disposal. With the Clean Coast, Clean Waters initiative completed, CFN's Shoreline Cleanup program has expanded with a 2026–2029 agreement with the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship to support implementation of the BC Coastal Marine Strategy, adding greater emphasis on monitoring, prevention, youth stewardship and targeted cleanups.

The initiatives engage youth to participate in all cleanup activities, as well as a range of other activities, such as cultural rediscovery camps, efforts to ensure food security, connecting with Elders and Knowledge Holders, and building or renovating coastal infrastructure.

IMPACTS

- Completed the multi-year Clean Coast, Clean Waters initiative, strengthening First Nations led stewardship across the North and Central Coast and Haida Gwaii.
- Removed marine debris from shorelines, improving culturally and economically important coastal areas.
- Expanded youth participation, training and intergenerational knowledge learning, building long term community stewardship capacity.
- Strengthened regional monitoring, partnerships and clean up capacity, including data collection, logistics, equipment and waste diversion.



Upcoming Priorities

- Work collaboratively on the 2026-2029 Coastal Marine Strategy implementation program.
- Identify priority monitoring and cleanup areas, and strengthen coordinated marine debris data collection and mapping.
- Continue youth stewardship and support targeted cleanups, monitoring and pollution response work with participating Nations.
- Address infrastructure and logistical gaps while advancing marine debris prevention and sustainable long-term funding.





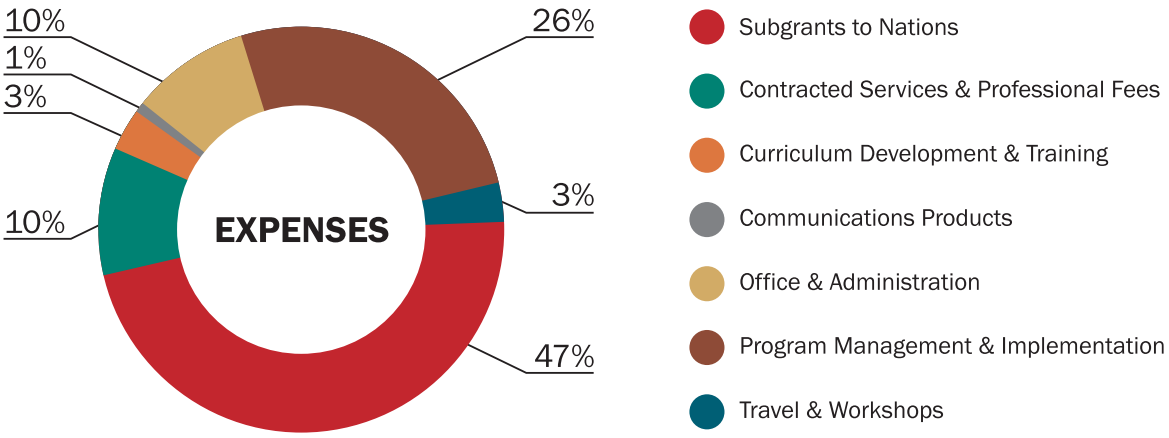
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Statement of Financial Position

March 31	2026	2025
Assets		
Cash	$ 6,989,724	$ 3,797,029
Term Deposits	17,729,230	19,778,600
Accounts Receivable	4,193,234	4,746,030
Prepaids	36,128	46,218
	28,948,316	28,367,877
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	3,086,447	2,105,186
Deferred Contributions	25,442,506	26,262,691
	28,528,953	28,367,877
Net Assets		
Unrestricted net assets	419,363	-
	$ 28,948,316	$ 28,367,877

Statement of Operations

For the year ended March 31	2026	2025
Revenues		
Grants and Contributions	$ 17,561,026	$ 15,716,446
Interest Revenue	670,777	910,553
Rental Revenue	36,000	7,768
	18,267,803	16,634,767
Expenses		
Subgrants to Nations	8,379,603	6,189,105
Contracted Services & Professional Fees	1,819,737	843,591
Curriculum Development & Training	577,835	419,856
Communications Products	132,813	90,370
Office & Administration	1,712,070	1,890,161
Program Management & Implementation	4,704,920	6,761,791
Travel & Workshops	521,462	439,893
	17,848,440	16,634,767
Excess of revenue over expenditures	$ 419,363.00	$ -



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge and honour our hereditary leaders, political leaders, Elders and community members who guide our work. They remind us that our collective responsibility is to ensure our lands and waters are managed sustainably, with future generations in mind.

CFN would also like to thank our partners who support our work.

LIST OF CFN FUNDERS

Government

- Government of Canada
- Government of BC

Foundation/Non-profit

- Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
- Coast Conservation Endowment Fund Foundation
- Nature United & The Nature Conservancy (Global)
- First Nations Leadership Council (BC Assembly of First Nations, First Nations Summit and Union of BC Indian Chiefs)
- Wilburforce Foundation
- Real Estate Foundation of BC
- MakeWay Charitable Society – Equitable Sector Fund – BC

Corporate

- Great Bear Carbon
- Coastal Nations Fisheries Limited Partnership
- BC Hydro
- Royal Bank of Canada







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COASTAL FIRST NATIONS
GREAT BEAR INITIATIVE